TOP SECRET

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Gale (Attention: Mr. Devic)
1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
BY LIAISON
1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan (Attention: Mr. Rozamus)
(1) - Mr. Patterson

June 16, 1969

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

JUNE

Dear Mr. President:

The following facts are being furnished for your information concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., authorized by former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and installed by this Bureau.

On July 16, 1963, an official of this Bureau saw Mr. Kennedy at the latter's request. On that occasion, Mr. Kennedy said he was considering the possibility of a telephone surveillance of King because of King's communist associations. He was advised by the Bureau official that since King was in travel status practically all the time, the productivity of such a surveillance was doubtful and he was asked to consider the repercussions if it ever became known that such a surveillance had been instituted on King. Mr. Kennedy said he was not concerned about possible repercussions and that he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation. He was told that

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TOP SECRET
Group 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
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The Attorney General

surveillance, and a surveillance on any future residence of King, by his written signature.

This telephone surveillance was installed on November 6, 1963, and was discontinued on April 30, 1965.

NOTE:

Because of the considerable publicity concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., occasioned by the court hearings in the Selective Service case of Cassius Clay, the facts concerning the original request for this coverage by Robert F. Kennedy, are being furnished to the Attorney General.

Classified "Top Secret" because of sensitive nature of the information contained therein, the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in exceptionally grave damage to the national security.